

Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7266

INFO AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

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E.O. 11652: N/A

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SUBJECT: ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES OF INDIAN AND PAKISTANI AMBASSADORS

1. "NEW ERA BEGINS IN INDO-PAK RELATIONS" (NATIONAL HERALD),
"TRAIN TO PAKISTAN TO OPEN UP NEW VISTAS" (TIMES OF INDIA),
AND "MUTUAL PLEDGE TO WORK FOR GREATER COOPERATION" ARE
AMONG DELHI PRESS HEADLINES SIGNALING ARRIVALS OF INDIAN
AND PAK AMBASSADORS JULY 21 IN RESPECTIVE CAPITALS TO WHICH
THEY ARE ACCREDITED. ALL PAPERS CARRY FRONT PAGE PHOTOS OF
PAK AMBASSADOR FIDA HASSAN AND/OR INDIAN AMBASSADOR BAJPAI
(AND SEVERAL FEATURE ATTRACTIVE PIA STEWARDESS AS WELL).

2. TIMES OF INDIA EDITORIAL DESCRIBES THE SIMLA PROCESS AS NOW
HAVING BEEN COMPLETED. CENTRAL ISSUE NOW, THE EDITORIAL
SUGGESTS, IS WHETHER BHUTTO IS "READY AND ABLE TO BURY THE
PAST AND ACHIEVE A SIGNIFICANT LEVEL OF COOPERATION WITH
THIS COUNTRY OR WHETHER HE WILL RETURN TO OLD AND
FRUSTRATING PRACTICES OF THE PAST." ISLAMABAD CANNOT,
FOR INSTANCE, JUST SEEK AND DEMAND PARITY WITH NEW DELHI
IN TERMS OF MILITARY POWER. AS THINGS STAND, MR. BHUTTO
CANNOT ALSO HOPE TO EXPLOIT EITHER PAKISTAN'S MEMBERSHIP
OF CENTO OR THE MUTUAL SECURITY PACT WITH THE U.S. TO GET
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MASSIVE MILITARY AID AND EMBARRASS THIS COUNTRY. INDIA'S

GROWING TIES WITH IRAN ON THE ONE HAND AND THE SIGNIFICANT SHIFT IN THE USA'S SOUTH ASIA POLICY ON THE OTHER HAVE PUT AN END TO SUCH A POSSIBILITY. THE DEMOCRATIC PARTY'S PLATFORM IS NOTABLE IN THIS CONTEXT....."

3. THE CPI-CONTROLLED "PATRIOT" COMMENTS THAT THE PEOPLE OF BOTH COUNTRIES HOPE A "NEW CHAPTER OF FRIENDLY RELATIONS" IS BEGINNING. BUT "DESPITE THE PRESENT WELCOME TREND OF NORMALIZATION, THERE ARE BOUND TO BE OCCASIONS FOR DISCORD IF PAKISTAN'S RULERS RAKE UP THE SO CALLED KASHMIR ISSUE AND SEEK TO INTRODUCE EXTERNAL INFLUENCES INTO THE AFFAIRS OF THE SUBCONTINENT. THERE IS REAL DANGER OF THIS HAPPENING BECAUSE OF THE INTERVENTIONIST URGE AMONG INFLUENCE-SEEKING FOREIGN POWERS." CHINA SUPPORTED PAKISTAN'S KASHMIR POSITION JUST THIS MAY. "THE DEMOCRATIC PARTY OF THE U.S. IN ITS ELECTION PLATFORM HAS STATED THAT 'INDIA HAS NOW ACHIEVED A CONSIDERABLE DEGREE OF HEGEMONY OVER THE SUBCONTINENT' AND 'FUTURE AMERICAN POLICY SHOULD ACCEPT THIS FACT' INDIA IS NOT IN QUEST OF HEGEMONY AND HAS REPEATEDLY DEMONSTRATED ITS INTEREST IN TIES BASED ON EQUALITY AND COOPERATION WITH ALL OF ITS NEIGHBORS... INDIA IS INTERESTED IN EXCLUDING THE HEGEMONY OF OTHER POWERS THROUGH THE COOPERATIVE EFFORT OF ALL THE STATES IN THE REGION, NOT BY SEEKING DOMINATION FOR ITSELF."

4. OFFICIAL COMMENTS WERE MORE RESTRAINED: ON LEAVING DELHI, AMBASSADOR BAJPAI TOLD NEWSMEN THAT HE HOPED INDIA AND PAKISTAN WOULD NOW MOVE FORWARD FROM "COEXISTENCE TO COOPERATION". AMBASSADOR FIDA HASSAN, ON HIS ARRIVAL IN DELHI, WAS REPORTED AS "HOPING FOR THE BEST": THAT NORMALIZATION WOULD LEAD TO COOPERATION. MEA FONSEC MEHTA WAS REPORTED IN THE PRESS AS SAYING THAT ALL PROGRAMS FOR THE NORMALIZATION OF RELATIONS HAD NOW BEEN COMPLETED.

5. COMMENT: IN TERMS OF THE SIMLA AGREEMENT, ARTICLES II, III AND IV, MEHTA AND THE INDIAN EDITORIALS ARE CORRECT: ALL THE ITEMS LISTED HAVE BEEN AGREED UPON AND PUT INTO EFFECT. IN TERMS OF ARTICLE V, HOWEVER, THE POLITICAL AGENDA IS STILL OPEN---AS THE PAKISTANIS INSIST---SINCE THE "MODALITIES AND ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF DURABLE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 03 NEW DE 10682 231006Z

PEACE AND NORMALIZATION OF RELATIONS" INCLUDE THAT GLOOMY AND INTRACTABLE
ITEM "A FINAL SETTLEMENT OF JAMU AND KASHMIR".SAXBE

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